

REMARKS

Claims 18, 22, 24, and 59 are pending. Claims 2-5, 7-10, 13-15, 20-36, and 39-40 were previously withdrawn and are now requested to be reinstated as being dependent on an allowable base Claim 18. Claims 1, 6, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19, 37, 38, and 41-58 were cancelled.

Claim 18 has been amended along the lines suggested by the examiner in the examiner's Answer to overcome the rejections.

All withdrawn species claims that were previously dependent on Claim 1 have been amended to be dependent on Claim 18. Accordingly, if Claim 18 is deemed allowable, it is requested that all withdrawn claims be reinstated as being dependent on a generic claim.

The examiner mailed an Examiner's Answer, dated March 6, 2009, that correctly stated at the bottom of page 6 that the examiner and Appellant were interpreting the term "free game pot" differently. The examiner stated, "It is apparent that Examiner's rejection is not clearly explaining why he makes this contention." The examiner explained that, based on Appellant's Appeal Brief, Appellant was intending the claimed "free game pot" to mean a fund that funds the virtual wagers during the free game bonus round. The examiner stated at the top of page 8 of the Answer that,

Examiner readily admits that had Appellant claimed a free game pot that was used to fund virtual wagers during the free game bonus, the cited prior art would not teach this feature. But Examiner contends that this is not claimed & Appellant's argument on this score are not commensurate in scope with the claims.

In view of the examiner's clear explanation in the Answer, it seems that all the reasons for rejection of the claims are moot, since the present amendments, expressly defining the "free game pot," overcome the rejection. The free game pot is defined in the specification as follows:

Page 2, lines 11-12, of the specification states, "... a free game pot (FGP), used to fund the 'virtual' wagers during the free game round,...."

Similarly, page 7, lines 7-9, states, "The free game pot is a pot that is calculated to finance the virtual wagers to play the free games during the free game bonus round so that all the virtual wagers for the free games are paid from the free game pot."

Similarly, page 7, lines 27-28, states, “The virtual wagers during the free game bonus round are taken out of the free game pot.”

Similarly, page 8, lines 28-30, state, “The most important pot to fill first is the free game pot since all the wagers during the free game bonus round should be fully supplied by the free game pot.”

Accordingly, the function of the free game pot is well defined in the specification, and the present amendment to Claim 18 is fully supported.

It is respectfully submitted that all claims are allowable. Should the examiner have any questions or claim clarifications, please call the undersigned at (408) 382-0480 x202.

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Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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